

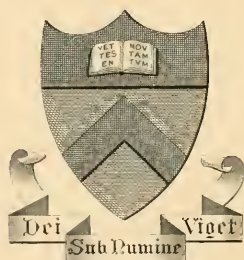
Paul van Dyke

AGE OF THE RENASCENCE

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Paul van Dyke

Age of the Renaissance



The Renaissance extends from 1377-1527. It is the period of change in the thought, religious belief, literature and art of Europe. The period of transition from feudalism and scholastic learning to nationalized government and liberal culture. It marks the overthrow of pontifical power; a great awakening in art, religion and politics. Its wars were feudal wars. Its struggles were for individuality. It marks a change in the average character of the average man.

Division of the Age of the Renaissance.

I. Introduction. Condition of Europe in 1300.

II. Age of transition. Lifetime of Petrarch, 1304-1374.

III. Rise of humanism and formation of social alliances. Death of Petrarch to accession of Pope Nicholas V, 1374-1447.

IV. Humanism having mastered the papacy and Italy, crosses the Alps and becomes a European movement. Accession of Nicholas V to French invasion of Italy, 1447-1494.

V. Main stream of humanism absorbed. French invasion of Italy to sack of Rome, 1494-1527.

VI. Catholic reformation absorbs humanism and checks Protestantism north of the Alps. Sack of Rome to accession of Pope Paul IV, 1527-1555.

I. Condition of Europe in 1300.

1. *The State.* Nationalism was replacing feudalism. Feudalism was a method of holding land which tended toward disunion and disorder. The domain holders became knights and leased a fief or unit to tenants of lower class.

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These tenants became vassals of the knights on condition of receiving protection in exchange for military service. Feudalism is described as "A connected series of greater and lesser land owners, the less dependent upon the greater, and all at least nominally dependent upon the king, the center and titular head of the hierarchy. . . .".*

2. *The Church.* The universal institution which kept alive in Europe a sense of unity. The power of the popes increased until the general councils were abolished and the popes became practically unrestricted. Corruption of the church followed this excessive power. Causes of corruption were: a) Papal taxes. All Europe paid taxes to the Pope and a vast amount of money poured into Rome. b) Right of provision and reservation. Pope suggested candidates for vacant offices and had the power to fill all vacancies caused by the death of members of the clergy in Rome. c) Right of appellation. Pope could summon any bishop or prelate to Rome. d) Right of conferring the pallium. The coat worn by the archbishops, who could not perform their duties till the pallium had been granted by the pope. e) Exemptions and dispensations. Made for money considerations.

These privileges steadily increased the two evils of pluralism and simony. Pluralism means the holding of more than one office for the sake of revenue. Simony was the sale of church office. Pope Boniface VIII in 1302 issued the bull *Unum Sanctum* to claim the fullness of power of the papacy when Phillip IV of France denied his right to tax church lands in France. The pope retired to Anagni in 1303 where he died from the effect of an attack by mercenaries of Phillip IV. The French cardinals controlled the papal election. The removal of the papacy to Avignon marks the Babylonian Captivity (1307-1377).

3. *Society.* Although the age of feudalism was essentially

* Woodrow Wilson : The State.

undemocratic, there was always a career open for talent especially in the church. The two theories of the source of authority were the absolute theory that supreme power in the state comes directly from God and the democratic theory that sovereign power may come from God but it is the will of the people.

4. *The Universities.* Movement started at the beginning of the 12th century by Abelard, a lecturer at the cathedral school in Paris which became university or corporation of teachers, consolidated like the guilds of tradesmen. The University of Bologna had civic organization instead of ecclesiastical. Later it became famous for the study of canon law. This university was governed by the students, while the University of Paris was governed by the teachers. Humanism is the system of education by liberal culture.

II. Age of Transition, 1304-1377.

Petrarch was the first of the Humanists. A great lover of classical literature who criticized the university methods and tried to establish a broader and more liberal system of learning. He hoped to become a great reformer of the world's institutions and championed individuality as opposed to class feeling. His many personal weaknesses included a self-conscious melancholy, a ceaseless appetite for praise, and a lack of sincerity. He gave an impetus to liberal culture and was considered the greatest writer of the age.

Cola di Rienzi (1313-1354) tried to revise the ancient spirit of the Roman Republic by the power of sentiment. He was made dictator of Rome but expelled after a rule of seven months. He was assassinated shortly after his return to power in 1354.

Boccaccio (1315-1375). Contemporary and friend of Petrarch. He had neither the meanness nor the greatness of Petrarch. He wrote extensively in Latin and tried to spread throughout Italy a love for letters.

III. Rise of Humanism, 1374-1447.

Return of the papacy from Avignon. During the absence of the papacy from Rome the cities of Italy had been exposed to dangers from petty tyrants and the papal legates. The uprising of the cities under the leadership of Florence caused Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome in 1377. Gregory's successor Pope Urban VI put down the revolt of the cities. Thirteen of the cardinals protested that they were forced to elect Urban and they then chose a new pope, Clement VII. This caused open war between the popes and the European nations quickly took sides.

John Wiclif (1320-1384). A professor at Oxford, a learned scholar, a powerful speaker, and a leader of national feeling in England. He wrote in the heavy style of Scholasticism. He was a sincere, clever preacher and established bands called "Poor Priests," who spread his doctrines throughout England. He was the first translator of the bible into English. Wiclif protested against the papal war and the right of Urban VI to call upon England for military aid. He chiefly attacked the doctrine of Transubstantiation, i. e., the belief that the consecrated bread and wine actually became the body and blood of Christ. He gradually lost power because his reforms were too radical for the time. The followers of Wiclif were called Lollards.

The New Learning in Italy. The followers of Petrarch and Boccaccio became wandering teachers and gradually spread the New Learning throughout Italy. Marsiglio and Salutato, the chancellor of Florence, were the leaders of the "Learned Club" which made Florence the centre of Humanism. This new display of energy answered the needs of the world and turned toward a classical revival. The intellectual advancement changed institutions and made the ideals of the people more practical.

John Huss and the Council of Constance 1415. After an attempt by the cardinals to heal the schism caused by

three popes, a general council was called 'at Constance. Huss was a lecturer at the University of Prague and preacher in the church established there by the Slavic citizens. Because he would not submit to the doctrines of the church Huss was excommunicated and summoned to appear before the council on a charge of heresy. Although under a safe conduct from the Emperor, he was condemned to death together with his colleague Jerome. This caused a revolt in Bohemia. The council deposed the three popes and elected Martin V but did not take any definite action to reform the abuses of the church.

The Five States of Italy.

1. The States of the Church. Situated in the center of Italy, these states were in continual disorder from pillage and corruption. They were rich in mines and valuable for political purposes. Martin V reduced anarchy to order by the system of nepotism. He tried to build up feudal principalities in the states for his relatives. This helped to restore the temporal power of the papacy.

2. The Kingdom of Naples and Sicily. Continually ruled by foriegners. It was the object of Norman, German, French and Spanish conquest, after which it was inherited by the Duke of Anjou. The only kingdom with constitutional form of government and under the sanction of the pope. By constant contact with outside nations this kingdom still contained many feudal elements. Municipal influence was lacking.

3. Milan. At first a commonwealth ruled by the citizens who held property. Later in a conflict between the aristocratic and democratic parties the aristocrats were victorious. The Visconti then ruled as dukes and in 1412 Filippo Visconti united the two parties. Its wealth was vastly increased by the wool trade and the cultivation of the surrounding country.

4. Venice. A republic ruled by the power of a commercial aristocracy. Governed by a great council whose mem-

bership was hereditary. Venice controlled the Adriatic and accumulated wealth as the center of trade with the East.

5. Florence. Early government was controlled by the trade guilds and a few noble families. Florence then became a commercial aristocracy governed by the grand council or Signory. The two chief executive offices were restricted to foreigners and were the Podesta and Captain of the Police. The majority of the people had no civil rights. The wealth of Florence came from its extensive banking interests and the wool trade. The population of the city was 90,000. Its scholars and artists gave it wealth and greatness out of proportion to its size. For a period of a hundred years Florence was the center of liberal culture and art.

The Medici. The growth of Florence was materially aided by the Medici. For three generations this family furnished great patrons of art and literature. Averardo de Medici was a Florentine of wealth and influence. He avoided politics and increased his wealth by his success as a banker. He left to his sons Cosimo and Lorenzo 180,000 florins. A florin is worth \$2.50.

Cosimo de Medici (1389-1464) secured the entire inheritance at the death of Lorenzo. He increased his wealth to 1,000,000 florines, and at the age of 40 joined the Oligarchy. Owing to a plot of his political associates he was charged with misuse of public funds and exiled. After a year's absence he returned to Florence in triumph and inflicted many cruelties on his enemies. Although he held no office Cosimo controlled the government of Florence until his death. He employed dishonest political methods; interfered with the ballot; misappropriated taxes, and used violence when his plans were opposed. He became a patron of the Platonic Academy and invited to Florence many men of learning. Among his friends were Niccolo

de Niccoli, who collected the finest library of manuscripts in Italy; Traversari and Leonardo Bruni.

IV. Accession of Nicholas V to French Invasion of Italy, 1447-1494.

The Council of Constance did not end the Schism of the papacy. *Nicholas V* (Thomas of Sarzana), the successor of Martin V, was the first of the popes instructed in the new learning. Born in Sarzana in 1489 of poor parents, he was educated at the University of Bologna and succeeded to the bishopric in 1443. Four years later he was elected pope. He wished to gratify his literary tastes and founded the Vatican library. Nicholas sent ambassadors throughout Europe to inaugurate a crusade against the Turks for the relief of Constantinople. The failure of his plans caused the surrender of the city to the Turks in 1453. He was a patron of learning and art who tried to establish peace in the church. He died in 1455.

Rhythm of the Papacy. A feud had always existed in the college of Cardinals between the Monks and the party of the New Learning. Calixtus III, the successor of Nicholas V, was a Spanish Monk who tried to arouse in Europe a crusade against the Turks. He died in 1458, and was succeeded by Pius II.

Pius II (1405-1464) was a Humanist, the son of a Sienese nobleman. He became royal secretary to the King of Germany. While ambassador to Pope Eugenius IV he established the influence of the papacy in Germany. As pope he disappointed the Humanists, and only followed the policy of Nicholas V in his desire for peace. Aided by Venice and Hungary he started a crusade against the Turks but died before the hostile armies met. This was the last Crusade attempted in Europe.

A New Form of Egotism. During the Middle Age, the clergy alone, were inclined towards art and learning. Afterwards came an insatiable desire for fame and glory, unlimited ambition, and shameless egotism. In Italy the

men of the Renaissance were breaking away from society based upon heredity, and turning to society based upon individuality. These characteristics developed the professional Humanists as well as good and evil tyrants. The good tyrants advanced learning while the evil tyrants increased their power.

Sigismondo Malatesta (1417-1468) was a type of evil tyrant and ruled Rimini, a town in the papal states. He defeated the armies of the Pope and at the age of 19 was a distinguished general. He was well educated, possessed great strength, and fine literary and artistic tastes. His character was licentious and treacherous. All Italy was aroused by his savage cruelty.

Lorenzo de Medici (1449-1492) a type of good tyrant, was ruler of Florence. He was a man of ability and the greatest statesman of his time. He assembled in Florence learned men and aided the development of liberal culture.

The Popes of this period disregarded their spiritual duties and tried only to increase their temporal power. Sixtus IV (1414-1484) became a Franciscan Monk and later distinguished himself at the University of Bologna. He was elected Pope in 1471. His Nepotism caused civil war in Italy. The Archbishop of Florence was hung upon the disclosure of a political conspiracy in which the Pope's nephew was concerned. As a result Sixtus excommunicated Florence and forming an alliance with Venice made war upon the greater part of Italy. He was unsuccessful in this war and died shortly after. He was a patron of art and built the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

Humanism crosses the Alps. The New Learning extended rapidly throughout the transalpine countries especially in France. The three remaining influences which helped to spread Humanism and to maintain in Europe a sense of unity were the Church, Trade, and the Universities.

1. *The Church* was denounced for its corruption but

the people still respected its power and the learning of the Monks. The councils of the church assembled learned men and increased the influence of Humanism.

2. *Trade* united the merchant princes of the commercial cities. The invention of printing established competition between German and Italian workmen.

3. *The Universities*. Many universities were founded during this period. It was customary to obtain an education at more than one institution. Men who drifted from one university to another were called "Vagabonds of Humanism." The Scholastics denounced the new learning, especially its pagan interpretation that "Whatever pleases is permitted."

Among the forerunners of German Humanism who also became forerunners of the Reformation were Johann Wessel and John of Wesel. Johann Wessel (1420-1489) was educated at the University of Cologne. He criticized the abuses of the Church in writings which he distributed among his friends. He declared that the pope and councils were not infallible in matter of faith.

John of Wesel was a professor of Theology at the University of Erfurt. He wrote a treatise on papal indulgences and in 1460 became a preacher. His religious views caused his arrest in 1479 on a charge of heresy. At first he refused to recant but later confessing a false belief he was imprisoned.

V. French Invasion of Italy to Sack of Rome, 1494-1626. *W. W. 10-27*

Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) was born in Ferrara and in 1475 entered the Dominican monastery at Bologna. In 1490 he was elected Prior of St. Marks in Florence. When Piero de Medici unconditionally surrendered Florence to Charles VIII the populace revolted against the rule of the Medici. Savonarola advocated a liberal government ruled by a great council. After the departure of Charles VIII from Italy, Savonarola came into contact

with Pope Alexander VI. Enraged by Savonarola's criticism of the corruption of the Church, Alexander prohibited him from preaching. His refusal to obey this order caused his excommunication. The pope ordered the Signory to deliver him to Rome for trial. This it declined to do but at its entreaty Savonarola ceased preaching. His final overthrow was precipitated by the mistaken ardor of one of his adherents. A Franciscan monk challenged Savonarola to prove the ordeal of fire. He ignored this but his zealous disciple Frà Domenico accepted the challenge. The Franciscan did not adhere to his agreement but demagogues convinced the populace of Savonarola's insincerity. He was arrested by the Signory on a charge of heresy and treachery, tried by the papal commissioners, found guilty, and put to death. Savonarola denounced the degeneracy of institutions and the vices of the Church but remained an orthodox Roman Catholic and did not protest against its doctrines. His sermons were clumsily constructed and full of allegorical interpretations of the bible. He was an eloquent orator and a forceful preacher. His real power was derived from his belief in his divine inspiration.

French Invasion of Italy. Italy now became the battle ground of Europe. The Hundred Years War with England made France a nation. By his marriage with Anne of Brittany, Charles VIII completed the consolidation of the kingdom and crushed the power of the nobles. He equipped a large, well-disciplined army and was invited to Italy to establish his claim to the Kingdom of Naples as heir to the House of Anjou. Although his ministers tried to dissuade him he entered Italy with an army of 90,000 men. He was welcomed by all the states except Florence and Venice. The real motive of his invasion was a romantic desire for fame and adventure. The cities of Italy soon became alarmed and formed an alliance against the invader. When Charles departed for France his army was reduced to 10,000 men. He defeated the army of the League in the

battle of Fornova in 1496 and returned to France without accomplishing any object of his invasion.

Louis XII, the successor of Charles VIII, took the titles of King of Naples and Duke of Milan. In alliance with Venice he made war upon Milan and captured the city. In 1500 Louis made a treaty with Spain for the division of Southern Italy. In the war which followed the partition France was defeated in battle by Spain. In 1504 the Peace of Lyons recognized the right of Spain to Naples and the right of France to Milan.

The Borgias. *Alexander VI* (Rodrigo Borgia) was born in Valencia in 1431. His uncle, Calixtus III, appointed him Cardinal in 1455. By bribing the cardinals he was elected Pope in 1492. He openly lived a dissolute life and married his daughter Lucretia to a Neapolitan nobleman. He created a principality in Romagna for his son Caesar and used the Church's wealth for its conquest. Upon the death of Savonarola and the retreat of Charles VIII, Alexander tried to establish the temporal independence of the papacy. In 1497 his son, the Duke of Grandia, was murdered and Caesar Borgia was suspected of the crime. When the power of Naples seemed broken by France and Spain, Lucretia's husband was assassinated. All Rome feared the treachery of the pope and his son, who increased his possessions by conquest and treason. Many cardinals and nobles were murdered in Rome while their property was confiscated by the Pope. Caesar was almost overthrown by a mutiny of his captains but finally crushed the revolt and cruelly put to death the conspirators. In 1503 at the height of his power, Alexander died of fever.

Julius II the successor of Alexander, was the ablest of the Renaissance Popes. He purged the Vatican of open scandal and abolished nepotism. He was intensely ambitious and possessed great executive ability. He used his spiritual power to regain the papal territories in Italy. He imprisoned Caesar Borgia and compelled him to sur-

render his possessions in Romagna. He formed a league against Venice to secure her share of the expenses incurred by the war with the Turks and to obtain the Venetian territories in Northern Italy. Successful in this war, he defeated the Venetians in 1506 and again at Agnadello in 1507. Julius then planned to evict all foreigners from Italy. The Swiss supported the papacy with 25,000 Mercenaries. In alliance with Spain, Venice and Northern Italy, he formed the Holy League to make war upon France. The League was victorious in the battle of Ravenna in 1512 and compelled the French to retreat across the Alps. Julius died in 1513 before he could undertake his plan of expelling the Spaniards from Naples.

The rule of Louis XII was prosperous at home but disastrous abroad. His successor, Francis I, immediately prepared for the reconquest of Milan in alliance with Venice. The Pope joined forces with Milan when Francis refused to make Leo's nephew Duke of Milan. Francis gained a decisive victory over the allies in the battle of Marignano in 1515 and took possession of Milan.

At this juncture, Charles I (Charles V of Germany) succeeded Ferdinand as king of Spain. He inherited great possessions and had prospects for the greatest empire since the time of Charlemagne.

Humanism in Italy. The Italian Humanists did not endeavor to change the institutions of Church or State. The ideas of Petrarch were not followed and the form of the movement became very vague. Three types of Humanists in Italy were:

1. *Pagan Humanists* (Poggio Bracciolini) who sought learning and culture independent of spiritual aid.

2. *Pious Humanists* (Marsiglio) who advocated learning combined with religion.

3. *Christian Platonists* who desired to reconcile the doctrines of the New Testament and the theories of Plato, to

form a Philosophy of Christ. This type was represented in the Platonic Academy at Florence.

Humanism in Germany. These three classes were also general in Germany. While the pagan tendency was more influential in Italy, in Germany it was overcome by the other types of Humanists. The adherents of the new learning revived biblical studies and many religious books were printed. The monks defended Scholasticism and endeavored to expel Humanism.

John Reuchlin (1455-1522) was the leader of the German Humanists in the strife against the monks. The conflict began when the monks attempted to seize and burn all books belonging to Jews. The clever satires of Ulrich von Hutten, a representative of the pagan type, gained adherents for Reuchlin.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536) was a monk who left his monastery to pursue his studies at Paris; a learned Latin and Greek scholar. He opposed the teachings of the monks and wrote a treatise on the vices of the church. His greatest work was a translation of the New Testament into Greek with a new Latin version which he dedicated to the pope.

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) began the humanist movement in Switzerland. He was an eloquent preacher and a great biblical scholar. As a chaplain in the Swiss army, his influence prevented the mercenaries from accepting the bribes of Francis I before the battle of Marignano. For this service he received a pension from the pope.

Leo X (1475-1521) was the second son of Lorenzo de Medici and became Pope in 1475. He was a patron of art and letters. His tastes were expensive and he lacked religious feeling. He encouraged the work of Raphael and Michael Angelo. To raise money for his relatives and his pleasures, he attempted to levy a general tax on the pretext of crusade and also organized a general sale of

indulgences throughout Europe. These disastrous expedients were the immediate cause of the Reformation.

The death of the Emperor Maximilian in 1518 caused a prolonged struggle for the imperial election between Charles I of Spain, Francis I of France, and Henry VIII of England. In 1519 Charles secured the title and war with France followed. Leo joined the emperor and recovered for the papacy Parma and Piacenza, which had been lost after the battle of Marignano. At the height of his power Leo died suddenly in Rome.

The Reformation. This movement is only treated in its earliest aspect. *Martin Luther* (1483-1546) was an Augustinian Monk who denounced the vices of the Church. On a pilgrimage to Rome he was horrified at the lack of piety. The sale of indulgences caused his revolt. While a professor at the University of Wittenberg in Saxony, Tetzel, the agent of the Pope, tried to sell him an indulgence. Luther then attacked the sale of pardons (indulgences) in ninety-five theses. In these he argued that forgiveness of sin depends upon true repentance and that God alone can pardon. The University of Wittenberg defended its professor and the Humanists of Germany rallied to his support. Luther was protected from suppression by force owing to the support of the German people and the aid of the Elector of Saxony. He defied the bulls of denunciation issued against him by the Pope. After the Diet of Worms in 1521 the movement became a doctrinal schism.

Reform of Adrian. Adrian VI (1469-1523) was the tutor of Charles V. He was very rigid in discipline and frugal in his mode of living, which made him unpopular with the Roman populace. He tried to reform certain external abuses of the Church and sought the advice of Erasmus. He endeavored to suppress the doctrines of Luther by force.

Clement VII, the nephew of Lorenzo de Medici, suc-

ceeded Adrian. In the war with France he sided with Charles V until the battle of Pavia. He then joined the Italian cities in a league with France. This caused an attack by the imperialist general, the Constable Bourbon, who led his forces against Rome. The Pope was besieged in the castle of St. Angelo and forced to surrender. When the mercenaries were not paid the ransom they demanded, the city was sacked. This was the death blow to the Renascence at Rome.

The remainder of the syllabus is not based upon Professor van Dyke's lectures.

VI. Sack of Rome to Accession of Pope Paul IV, 1527-1555.

Fall of Florence. At the news of the success of the Constable of Bourbon the Florentines revolted, expelled the Medici, and re-established a republic similar to that of Savonarola. Charles V found it necessary to make peace with Pope Clement and one of the conditions was the restoration of the Medici. In 1529 a Spanish army under the Prince of Orange attacked the city which had been fortified under the direction of Michael Angelo. The Florentines resisted bravely but were defeated in battle and compelled to surrender. This ended the independence of Florence. From this time the Renascence steadily deteriorated.

The Catholic Reaction. This movement can be traced to a society founded in the time of Leo X, called the Oratory of Divine Love. The most important of the new organizations was the *Company of Jesus, or Jesuits*. This society was founded at Paris in 1534 by Inigo or Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish student at the University, who became the first general of the order. The Jesuits, unlike the older orders, adopted no monastic garb and did not withdraw from society. Their organization was on a military instead of a democratic basis. The pope formally approved of the order in 1540. The Jesuits abandoned scholastic-

ism and mastered the New Learning. They soon became the leading teachers of Europe and established universities in all Catholic countries. Many of them became missionaries. Their energy and organization enabled Catholicism to retain its standing in the South and to regain sections where Protestantism seemed successful.

During this period a vigorous moral reform took place in the Catholic church, especially at Rome. The paganism of the Renaissance disappeared and the triumph of the reactionists was complete when Cardinal Caraffa, a member of the Oratory of Divine Love, was elected Pope under the title of Paul IV.

Examination in Age of the Renaissance.

Any two questions.

1. Briefly characterize feudalism. Criticise the phrase the 'feudal system' and indicate results which the feudalization of society tended to produce upon politics, the social organism and the individual.

2. What was the doctrine of the Papal Fullness of Power and in what Bull did it receive its most classic expression?

3. What was the strife over investiture and why did it suggest a discussion of the "seat of authority? Mention two theories and show how they might be used in the strife over investitures.

Any three questions.

4. Give an account of the influence and character of Petrarch.

5. To what dangers did the absence of the papacy from Rome and its stay in Avignon expose Italy and what resulted from them?

6. Give an account of the character and career of John Wiclif.

7. Why did the new intellectual energy of the fifteenth century appear most markedly in Italy? Why did it take the form of a classic revival? Why did the intellectual change affect institutions?

8. Why was the Council of Constance called? Describe the party of Conciliar supremacy and the Bohemian Reform Party.

Any two questions

9. Give an account of the life and pontificate of Nicholas V.

10. Give an account of the character and career of Sigismondo Malatesta and characterize the egotism of the fifteenth century.

11. In what way could a professional Humanist of the fifteenth century make a living?

The first and one other question.

12. How did the new learning spread to Germany?

13. How was the invasion of 1494 significant for the past of France and the future of Italy?

14. Who was Ulrich von Hutten and what part did he play in the excitement which followed Luther's protest?





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